

Remarks – General

Applicant has made changes listed in **Claim Objections** and amended the above claim(s) listed in **Claim Rejections** to further define the novelty and unobviousness of the submitted invention (10/630,413) over prior art cited.

The Office Action rejects Claims # 1 and # 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammer (US#1869807)

Hammer only describes his invention and its structure. Office Action claims it would be obvious for someone of ordinary skill in this art to inherently utilize, in its normal and usual operation, the method claimed and it would have been anticipated.

Applicants applied for invention is **novel because all the cited prior art doesn't have nonstationary position and adjustable doors that creates a large opening for loading and unloading large laundry items.** The doors, and or openings, of prior art are all **fixed in a stationary position with hinges or other similar devices** which limit their functions and methods.

Office Action cites:

Hammer (US#1869807) discloses a wall mounted laundry hamper having a mounting surface 19 for attachment to a wall (figs. 4-5) and two adjustable front openings normally closed via front doors 21 and 22 for loading and unloading the laundry.

Applicant has changed claims to further define functionality, novelty, and unobviousness of applied for invention. Applicant arguments focus on the **upper and lower door operation and the openings they create with there functions**. Many of the prior art are similar and many of them could have been anticipated, but each has its own unique feature that is different from the rest.

Applicants invention has its own unique feature, which none of the prior art has. It is the **nonstationary doors that create an unexpected result. This unexpected result is variable openings in the front allowing for easy loading and unloading** of large or medium to small laundry items. These items can then be **concealed from sight** of the loader with the just the upper door being utilized in the full down position.

In Addition the **lower door can be partially concealed out of the way** and underneath the hamper/sorter to allow for **quick loading of small to medium items of laundry** into the top opening above the top door, when in the full down position. Thus the upper and lower doors **do not have to be engaged and closed** if so desired, but can be **engaged and closed for improved appearance**.

Applicant also argues if the **invention were in fact obvious**, because of its advantages, **those skilled in the art would have implemented it by now**. The fact is those skilled in the art **have not implemented this invention**, despite its great advantages, **indicates that it is not obvious**.

Applicant would also request to **submit seven pictures of two prototypes** used in testing and, to show the progressive improvements to the final applied for invention, to the Patent Office as further proof of patentability over prior art. The **first three pictures**

show functionality of the invention and the following four pictures shows a **more improved version** which lead to the final applied for invention.

Conclusion

Simply put, the **doors and their function are the novelty** of the applied for invention and offer a variety of options not seen or offered in the prior art of Hammer (US#1869807) and or the other references cited.

Therefore it is submitted that patentable subject matter is clearly present. If the examiner agrees but does not feel that the present claims are technically adequate, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner write acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j).

Very respectfully,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence, and attachments, if any, will be deposited with the United States Postal Service by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope address to "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on the date below.

Date: 24 JULY 2004

Inventor's Signature: 



Attachments: Appendix to Amendment "A" with Replacement Claims Bracketed, [removed words] and Underlined, added words to Indicate Changes, and Pictures of Two Prototypes Numbering 1-7.